



Illustration by Jeanne R. Janish,
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STELLARIA JAMESIANA **JAMES STITCHWORT**

James Stitchwort is a perennial with weak stems 15-50 cm long that are erect or ascending and can easily be detached, and arising from slender rhizomes. Stems are 4 angled with swollen nodes; the lower stem is smooth, but small, glandular-tipped hairs are on the upper stem, inflorescence, and often the leaves. The leaves are opposite, stalkless, lance-shaped with long tapering, pointed tips, and 2-15 cm long by 1.5-20 mm wide. There are few to many flowers borne on diffuse branches arising from leaf axils and at the top of the plant. The flowers have five pointed sepals that are 3.5-6 mm long, green with pale, membranous margins, and covered with glandular hairs. Each flower also has 5 bilobed, white petals that are about twice as long as the sepals, usually 10 stamens, and a single pistil with usually 3 style branches. The mature fruit is shorter than the sepals and opens by 3 valves. Collected in flower in July.

STELLARIA JAMESIANA is distinguished from other Montana species by its capsule with 3 valves rather than 6, and by the combination of its densely glandular hairy inflorescence and its leaves which are greater than 4 times as long as they are wide. Differences in the capsule are great enough that this species has been assigned its own genus (*PSEUDOSTELLARIA*), and it will not key out in many floras using the character of a 3-valved capsule.